

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the abstract of the disclosure as follows:

The present invention relates to the provision of highly reliable article information to customers in relationship to the electronic transaction of secondhand articles. Taking trading in secondhand construction machines as an example, when a ~~construction~~ machine 80 is used, the current location and cumulative operating hours of that machine 80 are monitored regularly or as required and stored as usage history on a database ~~data-base~~ 31. Also, photographs of the ~~construction~~ machine are taken as required while it is in use, and stored as usage history on a database ~~data-base~~ 31. Furthermore, history of the service (~~maintenance, repairs, and inspections~~) of the construction machine 80 is also stored on a database ~~data-base~~ 31. When the ~~construction~~ machine 80 in use is sold as a secondhand article, the current state (~~for example, the current cumulative operating hours~~), usage history, and service history of the construction machine 80 stored in the database ~~data-base~~ 31 is provided to a customer's terminal 60 from the sales server 32 via the Internet. The current state of the ~~construction~~ machine 80 is updated as it is used.